

GUN RIGHTS

(Mr. REHBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, too many people in Washington, D.C. are under the dangerous impression that the Second Amendment is obsolete and unnecessary. If they had their way, only criminals and agents of the State would be armed, while law-abiding Americans would be at their mercy.

While we can stop gun control in Congress, progressives and Washington, D.C. bureaucrats will use every tactic at their disposal to disarm the American public, including banning firearms on public lands.

That is why I have sponsored the Firearms Freedom on Federal Lands Act with Representatives Rob Bishop and Paul Broun. This legislation creates a statutory protection of gun rights, preventing land management agencies from restricting firearms on public lands, as they have done in the past.

The NRA has endorsed this measure, and I hope my colleagues will follow their lead and cosponsor this legislation.

CELEBRATING LIFE OF BARBARA GREENSPUN

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Barbara Greenspun whose recent death marks the end of an era in Nevada. With her sad passing, we have lost a remarkable individual who gave so much of herself to our community.

Together, Hank and Barbara Greenspun poured their heart and soul into the Las Vegas Sun, showing a dedication and commitment that would turn the paper into a leading publication. Then moving from behind the scenes to publisher after Hank's death, Barbara built upon his legacy as the paper earned journalism's most prestigious award, the Pulitzer Prize.

Known for her grace and generous spirit, Barbara also committed herself to a number of important causes, including higher education and women's health that touched the lives of so many. While she will be truly missed, her legacy will live on through her remarkable family, the landmark Greenspun building at UNLV, and the continued excellence of the Las Vegas Sun.

CONGRESS IS NOT LISTENING

(Mr. CONAWAY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, an oft-forgotten dictum in Washington is that to govern is to choose. It is to choose between the dizzying array of wants,

wishes, and needs of the American people, while constrained by the Constitution, fiscal, and political realities of the day.

Sadly, the leadership of the majority of this House have punted on choosing anything. They have ignored fiscal realities, our present condition, and the constitutional limits on our authority, and simply enacted whatever they could twist enough arms to pass. This majority has made promises it cannot keep with money it does not have. It has not made hard choices; it has not governed. No place is this more evident than in the Speaker's refusal to pass a budget this year, the most basic fiscal document our Nation has.

The budget is the foundation of all the taxing and spending that the Federal Government does. It constrains the appropriators and sets the boundaries for the spending debate. In choosing not to pass a budget, the Speaker is failing in her responsibility to govern this House and our Nation.

The American people, though, are not standing idly by. They are suggesting difficult choices for the Speaker through the YouCut program. To date, the American people have voiced support for over \$60 billion in hard choices.

Mr. Speaker, we are a Nation governed by the people; the people are not being heard. This Congress is not listening.

AMERICAN JOBS

(Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about jobs: where we were, where we are, and where I hope that we will be in the next 10 years.

In the last 3 months of 2008, we lost an average of approximately 650,000 jobs per month. The first quarter of 2009 saw us lose over 700,000 jobs per month. In the first quarter of 2009, our economy shrunk by 6.4 percent.

We have stopped the bleeding. We have added jobs in six of the last 7 months, averaging almost 200,000 jobs, the majority originating in the private sector. If this pace continues, this administration will have added more jobs in 1 year than the previous Bush administration did in 8 years. I repeat, 1 year compared to 8 years. Our economy grew by 3 percent for 3 straight quarters of economic growth, 9 percent in 12 months. After February of 2009, household wealth grew for 10 straight months, regaining nearly 30 percent, \$5 trillion of the \$17.5 trillion of household wealth wiped out during the former Bush administration in its final 18 months.

We have stopped the bleeding. The economic policies of this Congress is investing in America. There is no snap-your-finger fix to our economy.

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PASS A BUDGET

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives has passed a budget every year since the Congressional Budget Act took effect in fiscal year 1976. To be completely accurate, there have been times under both Democrats and Republicans when a finished budget was not passed by both Houses. But this is the first time the House of Representatives has simply decided there is too much peril for the American public to see the numbers that they are pursuing, so they are going to stop the game before the coin is even tossed.

We have more than \$13 trillion in debt and a Presidential budget that puts the deficit at \$1.6 trillion and spends \$3.8 trillion. Even Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke says this budget is, quote, "unsustainable."

Faced with similar challenges in your personal budget, there would be a talk around the kitchen table and the children's allowances would be cut, along with many other luxuries. It is that discussion that the majority seems unwilling to have under the theory that if they ignore it, it might go away. Unfortunately, the debt will not go away. The pain will be transferred to our children and grandchildren in the hopes that they will have the guts to face reality.

WALL STREET REFORM

(Ms. FUDGE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, Congress must decide whether to protect the interests of a few deceptive bankers who ruined the industry for others or to protect the hardworking Americans of this Nation.

House Democrats have already decided. We have decided to choose Main Street over Wall Street. We have decided to choose parents who want to provide for their children and for people who are saving for retirement. We have decided, Mr. Speaker, that the American people are more important than the overzealous bankers.

Maintaining the status quo is not the answer. Look at what the current situation has done to America. Eight million jobs were lost without the safeguards to protect Main Street. Millions of homes were taken in foreclosure due to subprime mortgage schemes.

American people deserve and want better. A CNN poll shows 6 out of 10 Americans support Wall Street reform. Republicans have blocked efforts to protect Americans. House Republicans voted unanimously against the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. This act would reform Wall Street, reform executive pay, end taxpayer-funded bailouts, and hold banks